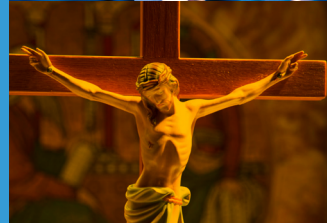




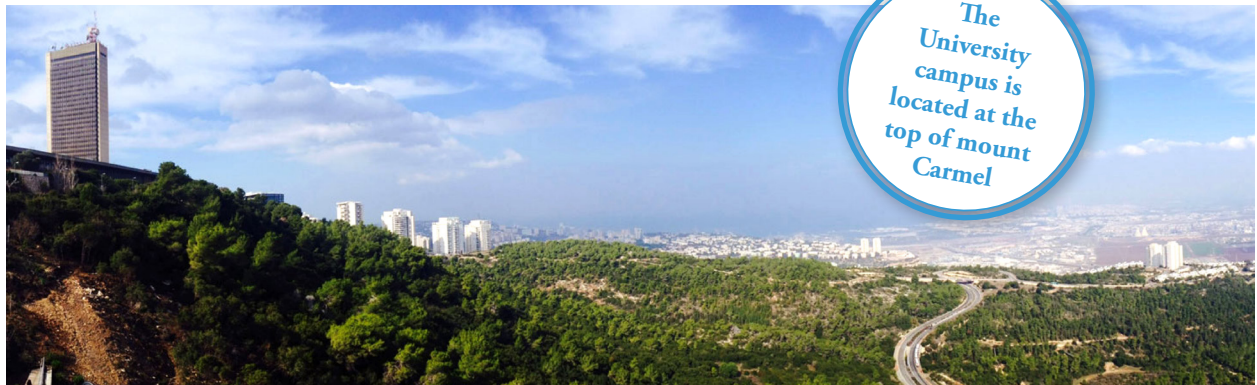
The HLRS North-American Christianity Program

University of Haifa



The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies

The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies (HLRS), founded in 2020 at the University of Haifa, is a pioneering interdisciplinary framework focused on research, education, and dialogue regarding inter-religious dynamics. Positioned as an epicenter of excellence, it cultivates groundbreaking research and hosts a vibrant community of scholars, students, and experts exploring issues of religious significance. Committed to fostering multi-faith understanding and religious freedom, the HLRS addresses contemporary challenges by recognizing the influential role of religion in the 21st century.



Guided by the belief that religious communities are both spiritual and social entities sharing common values, the HLRS endeavors to leverage these values for social and civic change. It aims to create inclusive societies by promoting collaboration among diverse faith groups. Situated in the diverse context of Haifa, likened to a multicultural hub, the HLRS aspires to serve as a global model for fostering peace, coexistence, and respect among faiths.

To achieve its objectives, the HLRS implements diverse initiatives like its graduate student cohort, shared society projects, annual symposia, an MA program for religious leaders, its unique Legal Forum, summer schools, a digital platform on religion and politics, and regular dialogue meetings between religious leaders. These initiatives exemplify the HLRS's dedication to promoting multi-faith dialogue, countering extremism, empowering religious communities, and showcasing Haifa's unique religious pluralism to the world.

The HLRS North-American Christianity Program

The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies spearheads an innovative academic venture focusing on North American Christianity, aiming to comprehensively explore this dynamic religious landscape. Through its rich and dynamic academic components, this initiative leverages the University of Haifa's esteemed reputation in archaeology, Christian tourism, and religious studies to pioneer a groundbreaking program.



Elijah the Prophet on Mt. Carmel, nearby the campus of the University of Haifa



Religious leadership in Haifa nurturing pluralism amidst adversity

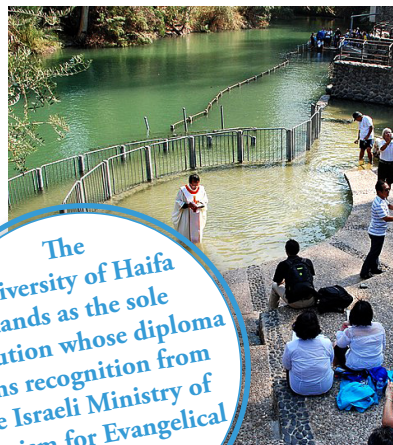
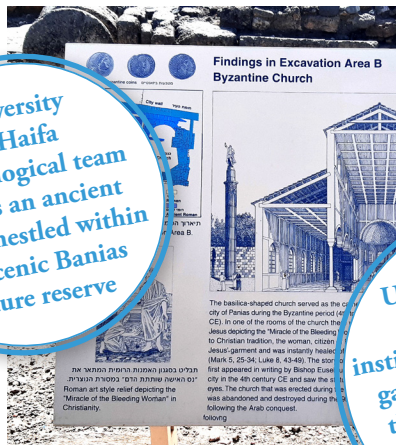


Geoarchaeological in a domestic Iron Age quarter, Tel Megiddo, Israel

The study of North American Christian communities bears immense scholarly and societal importance, encompassing diverse beliefs, practices, socio-cultural impacts, and historical evolutions. This initiative aligns with the university's commitment to global collaborations and academic excellence, uniquely positioning it to delve into the complexities of North American Christianity. Situated at the heart of the land of the Bible and amidst the historical context of Jewish-Christian relations, the University of Haifa's proximity to where Jesus was born adds significance to the exploration of religious studies. The centuries-long dialogue between Judaism and Christianity,

coupled with the contemporary alliance between Israel and North American Christians, creates a rich tapestry of cultural exchange and shared values.

The program's components include an MA degree program, the annual Megiddo Summer School offering a cross-cultural experience, research fellowships supporting senior and junior scholars, and annual symposia for intellectual discourse and collaboration. Generous fellowships ensure accessibility to promising students and researchers.



By unraveling the complexities of North American Christianity, this initiative contributes to interdisciplinary scholarship, fosters intercultural dialogue, and enhances societal comprehension of this influential religious phenomenon. It holds profound significance in understanding historical, cultural, and theological intersections between North American Christian communities and their relationships with Jewish traditions. This endeavor aligns with the University of Haifa's mission to promote global perspectives and mutual understanding among diverse cultures and faiths, bridging academic inquiry with lived experiences and shared values.



Prof. Ron Robin is a distinguished scholar renowned for his pioneering research at the intersection of culture and foreign policy within the United States. He is a senior faculty member at the University of Haifa and Professor Emeritus at New York University (NYU). Currently, Robin serves as the 11th president of the University of Haifa. Upon taking office, Robin embarked on a visionary mission to transform the University of Haifa into Israel's premier Multiversity, fostering academic excellence and innovation through the establishment of multiple campuses and research portals. His latest book, *The Cold World They Made*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2016.



Dr. Uriel Simonsohn (Ph.D., Princeton, 2008) is Senior Lecturer (Associate professor) in the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Haifa and the founding director of the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies. His work is concerned with the social intersections of diverse religious communities in the medieval Islamic world, whether through human agency or institutional arrangements. He is the author of *A Common Justice: The Legal Allegiances of Christians and Jews under Early Islam* (Pennsylvania UP, 2011) and of *Female Power and Religious Change in the Medieval Near East* (Oxford UP, 2023).



Dr. Kobby Barda is a senior researcher at the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies (HLRS) at the University of Haifa. His expertise lies in the spheres of American political history and U.S.-Israeli relations, which he gained through a comprehensive study of the ideological foundations of evangelical grassroots movements, revealing their global impact. Beyond academia, Dr. Barda consistently intertwines faith and foreign policy. As Deputy General Director of Tourism (2021-2022), overseeing American and faith-based tourism, he paid special attention to enhancing Christian American-Israeli ties. Within these spheres, he has recently assumed the role of director for the HLRS North-American Christianity Program.



The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies

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חממת חיפה לחקר דתות דפיئة חיפה לدراسة الاديان
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